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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 16 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the attached statements of the Press and Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the facts of the ethnic cleansing of Georgia, the shift of the administrative border of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, inaccurate information on a Georgian armed forces attack on Russian "peacekeepers" and the information on the explosion of the railway bridge in Kaspi by Russia's occupation army (see annex, enclosures 1-4).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 16, "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development", and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Permanent Representative

08-46613 (E) 210808

Annex to the identical letters dated 16 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Enclosure 1

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

New wave of ethnic cleansing of Georgians

According to the statement of 16 August 2008 of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation, subdivisions of the Ministry have started withdrawal of the ethnic Georgian population from the Tskhinvali region in the direction of Gori.

We are faced with a new wave of ethnic cleansing of Georgians conducted under a military-occupation regime by the Russian Federation, this time through the involvement of Russian State structures.

We would like to focus the international community's attention on the fact that the Russian Authorities have recently been making an increasing number of statements about the necessity of taking into consideration the will of the region's population. The ethnic cleansing of Georgians seems to be a method by which Moscow expects to attain awaited results.

Tbilisi, 16 August 2008

Enclosure 2

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Administrative border of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia is shifted

On 16 August 2008 at approximately 4 p.m. local time, armed gangs of the Abkhazian separatist regime together with units of the Russian regular army shifted the administrative border of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia towards the Enguri River. This caused the villages of the Zugdidi region, Ganmukhuri and Khurcha, to fall under the occupation of the Russian army and armed gangs of the Abkhazian separatist regime. In those villages the Abkhazian separatist government set up a temporary administration.

According to the reliable information, the criminal situation has rapidly deteriorated in the Georgian villages bordering the Enguri River. There are cases of physical abuse and looting. Abkhazian armed gangs together with Russian soldiers are robbing the local population and smuggling the stolen goods to the other side of the Enguri River.

Furthermore, the Russian Federation still continues the bombing of Georgian territories using the incendiary weapon prohibited by the International Convention. Today, at approximately 7 p.m. local time, Russian military helicopters bombed timber lands in the vicinity of the town Surami igniting new fires.

Due to the extremely difficult situation caused by the direct and unconcealed occupation of Georgia by the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls upon the friendly countries and the international community to provide urgent assistance in extinguishing the fires across Georgia and again condemns, in the strongest terms, Russian aggression against the sovereign State of Georgia.

Tbilisi, 16 August 2008

Enclosure 3

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Today the Russian information agencies spread the information that the Georgian armed forces have launched an attack on the so-called Russian "peacekeepers" in the conflict zone of Abkhazia and that, as they claim, the full-scaled military operations still continue.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia declares with full responsibility that the above-mentioned represents the recurrent disinformation of the Russian side and intends further escalation of the situation and justification of Russian aggression.

Tbilisi, 16 August 2008

Enclosure 4

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Russia's occupation army explodes a railway bridge in Kaspi

Video footage

Officials of the Russian Authorities continue their attempts to mislead the international community.

As noted in the previous statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia of 16 August 2008, troops of the Russian occupation army carried out yet another subversive-terrorist act, they mined and exploded the Metekhi-Grakali span of the railway bridge in the Kaspi district, which resulted in the severing of railway links between the east and west of Georgia.

Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Anatoly Nogovitsyn denied the fact of the bridge blast and said: "I state with fully responsibility, it is ruled out."

With respect to this statement of Anatoly Nogovitsyn, every organization or physical person concerned may check the website http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Dqurwp09Kc, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BK3xVgrMfbg for video footage of the exploded bridge.

We are confident the international community assesses adequately the reliability of "data" disseminated by Russian officials concerning the developments throughout the Georgian territory, both in and outside the conflict zone.

Tbilisi, 16 August 2008